

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 00680 01 OF 02 201958Z
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AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 00680

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: FRG PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES IN NORWAY

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1. NORWEGIAN PERMREP VIBE HAS REACTED TO JANUARY 20 AP
AND AFP PRESS REPORTS ON ALLEGED NORWEGIAN LIMITS ON FRG
PARTICIPATION IN ACE MOBILE FORCE (AMF) EXERCISES IN NORWAY
BY CIRCULATING A LETTER TO PERMREPS CALLING THE REPORTS
"RATHER MISLEADING". VIBE ENCLOSED EXCERPTS FROM A SPEECH
GIVEN BY NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE HANSEN JANUARY 9
BEFORE THE OSLO MILITARY SOCIETY (TEXT AT PARA 4) IN WHICH
HANSEN NOTED THAT NORWAY DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY
REASON TO MODIFY THE CURRENT PATTERN OF FRG PARTICIPATION
IN AMF EXERCISES IN NORWAY. VIBE ALSO ENCLOSED A JANUARY
19 PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND
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PAGE 02 USNATO 00680 01 OF 02 201958Z

IN WHICH HE STATED THAT FRG PARTICIPATION WAS ALLOWED IN
ORDER TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS IN THE DEFENSE FIELD AND
THAT NORWAY DOES "NOT INTEND TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF WEST
GERMAN PARTICIPATION" (TEXT AT PARA 5).

2. VIBE CONJECTURED TO CHARGE JANUARY 20 THAT THE NORWEGIAN
STATEMENTS MAY REFLECT A REACTION IN OSLO TO PRESS STORIES

IN THE SWEDISH AND FINNISH PRESS ABOUT FRG PARTICIPATION IN ARCTIC EXPRESS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MORE FRG TROOPS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FEBRUARY-MARCH EXERCISE THAN IN PREVIOUS EXERCISES IN NORWAY DUE TO THE ADDITION OF A HELICOPTER GROUP. AS FOR THE 1500 TROOPS REFERRED TO IN THE AP ARTICLE AT PARA 7, VIBE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE HAD BEEN ANY STATEMENT BY HANSEN IN JUNE 1976 BUT THAT WORD MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN OUT REGARDING PRELIMINARY NORWAY-FRG DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POSSIBLY INCREASING FRG PARTICIPATION TO INCLUDE ALL 1500 FRG TROOPS IN THE AMF IN EXERCISES IN NORWAY AT A LATER DATE.

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3. COMMENT: ARCTIC EXPRESS (FEBRUARY 14-MARCH 14) IS, OF COURSE, THE FIRST EXERCISE IN NORWAY IN WHICH FRG UNITS ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE FOLLOWING KOSYGIN'S DECEMBER 6 OUTBURST IN HELSINKI. AS SUCH, IT IS A TOUCHSTONE OF KOSYGIN'S IMPACT. AS SEEN FROM HERE, PRESS PLAY ON THE NORWEGIAN STATEMENTS GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE NORWEGIANS HAVE BACKED DOWN.

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4. BEGIN TEXT:
EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH MADE BY THE NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MR. ROLF HANSEN, ON 9 JANUARY 1978, IN THE OSLO MILITARY SOCIETY

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WITHIN

WE CAN REGISTER THAT NORWAY ENJOYS A GOOD POSITION WITHIN
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PAGE 03 USNATO 00680 01 OF 02 201958Z

THE COOPERATION IN THE ALLIANCE, AND THAT WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS TO ALL OUR ALLIES. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED STRONG GUARANTIES OF ALLIED SUPPORT IN CASE SITUATIONS OF CRISIS SHOULD ARISE IN NORWEGIAN AREA. THE SUPPORT INCLUDE MAINLY DEPLOYMENT OF CANADIAN, BRITISH AND AMERICAN UNITS. THE DISCUSSION THAT WE HAVE HAD ON WEST GERMAN PARTICIPATION HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH THIS MAIN PATTERN. IN NORMALIZING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATO MOBILE FORCE, WHICH IS EXERCISING IN NORWAY EVERY SECOND YEAR, WE HAVE ONLY DRAWN THE CONSEQUENCES FROM THE FACT THAT WE IN ALL OTHER AREAS HAVE NORMALIZED OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY--WHICH I WOULD REMIND YOU HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE NATO ALLIANCE ALL SINCE 1954.

THE QUESTION HAS BEEN RAISED WHETHER IN FUTURE EXERCISES OF THE NATO MOBILE FORCE--IN 1980 AND ONWARDS--MORE NUMBER OF WEST GERMAN UNITS SHOULD TAKE PART THAN THE PRESENT THREE MINOR UNITS WHICH ARE PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR. AS THE NORMALIZATION HAS IN PRINCIPLE BEEN IMPLEMENTED, THIS IS NOT A BIG QUESTION IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. NATO'S MOBILE FORCE IS COMPOSED OF DIFFERENT UNITS FROM THE PARTICIPATING COUN-

TRIES--CHANGING OVER TIME AND DEPENDING ON WHERE THE EXERCISES ARE TAKING PLACE. HENCE THE QUESTION OF THE EXTENT OF THE WEST GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISES IN NORWAY BECOMES A QUESTION OF EXPEDIENCY. FROM A NORWEGIAN POINT OF VIEW WE HAVE NOW IMPLEMENTED WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE EXPEDIENT, AND IT DOES NOT SEEM TO BE ANY MAJOR REASON TO MODIFY THIS PATTERN.

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I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT THE ACE MOBILE FORCE IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A "FACE (SIC) OF DEMONSTRATION" WHICH

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PAGE 01 USNATO 00680 02 OF 02 202005Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 00680

IS TO BE EMPLOYED IN CRITICAL AREAS WHERE A DANGER OF WAR MAY OCCUR. WE DO NOT BASE OURSELVES ON THIS MOBILE FORCE IN AN ACTUAL FIGHTING WAR IN NORWAY. IN SUCH A CASE IT WOULD BE OF DECISIVE IMPORTANCE WHAT KIND OF BINDING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WE HAVE MADE--AND AS I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT SUPPORTING POWERS. END TEXT.

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5. BEGIN TEXT:

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STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NORWAY,

MR. KNUT FRYDENLUND, IN THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT ON 19 JANUARY 1978, CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF UNITS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN MANOEUVRES IN NORTHERN NORWAY. (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)
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PAGE 02 USNATO 00680 02 OF 02 202005Z

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"I SHALL ONLY MAKE SOME SHORT COMMENTS TO WHAT HAVE BEEN SAID BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE STORTING CONCERNING WEST GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MANOEUVRES IN NORTHERN NORWAY.

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WHEN THE DECISION TO LET SOME WEST GERMAN UNITS PARTICIPATE IN THESE MANOEUVRES IN NORTHERN NORWAY WAS TAKEN, IT WAS BECAUSE WE WISHED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ALSO IN THE DEFENCE FIELD, THAT IS TO SAY TO BRING AN END TO THE DISCRIMINATION WHICH UP TO THAT TIME HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST WEST GERMAN SOLDIERS. WHAT HAS BEEN SAID BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE IN A SPEECH RECENTLY, IS THAT ONE (SIC) DO NOT INTEND TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF THE WEST GERMAN PARTICIPATION.

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THIS IS NOT A "SERIOUS MISTAKE" (AS ONE MEMBER HAD ALLEGED). IT IS, HOWEVER, IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE PURPOSE IS NOT TO ENGAGE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IN THE DEFENCE OF NORWAY. THIS IS NEITHER ENVISAGED IN OUR DEFENCE PLANNING, NOR IS IT A DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. IT IS THEREFORE WRONG TO PRESENT THIS DECISION AS "WEAKNESS". END TEXT.

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6. UNOFFICIAL MISSION TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF JANUARY 20 NATO PRESS SERVICE SUMMARY OF AFP ARTICLE:

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WEST GERMAN SOLDIERS WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE NATO MANOEUVRES WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN NORTHERN NORWAY THIS YEAR, DECLARED KNUT FRYDENLUND, NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, THE MINISTER DENIED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN IN TO SOVIET PRESSURE LOOKING TOWARD PREVENTING THE PARTICIPATION OF 1500 WEST GERMAN SOLDIERS IN THE MANOEUVRES. (A.F.P.)
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PAGE 03 USNATO 00680 02 OF 02 202005Z

END TEXT.

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7. AP ARTICLE AS CARRIED IN JANUARY 20 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE. BEGIN TEXT:

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"W.GERMAN FORCE LIMITED BY OSLO IN NATO GAMES"

OSLO, JAN. 19 (AP) - YIELDING TO OBJECTIONS FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND FINLAND, THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS STATED THAT THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONAL WEST GERMAN FORCES PARTICIPATING IN NATO MILITARY MANEUVERS IN NORTHERN NORWAY.

DEFENSE MINISTER ROLF HANSEN INDICATED THIS ON JAN. 9. HIS DEPUTY CONFIRMED THIS WEEK THAT WEST GERMAN PARTICIPATION WILL BE LIMITED TO ABOUT 480 MEN, INCLUDING PERSONNEL TO MAN A FIELD HOSPITAL, A COMMUNICATION UNIT AND A HELICOPTER UNIT.

THE DECISION REVERSES A JUNE, 1976, STATEMENT BY MR. HANSEN THAT NORWAY PLANNED FULL INTEGRATION OF BONN FORCES IN THE EXERCISES BY 1980, MEANING UP TO 1,500 GERMANS ON THE 5,000-MEMBER MANEUVERS.

WEST GERMAN UNITS TOOK PART IN NORTH NORWAY MANEUVERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1976 AND FINLAND'S PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WEST GERMAN PARTICIPATION. THE SOVIET UNION ALSO HAS OBJECTED SEVERAL TIMES.
END TEXT.
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